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NOTICE

TRAINING
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LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

1. Each time I travel abroad, as I have done recently, I become increasingly aware of the necessity for greater proficiency in foreign language skills among our personnel. While I know that larger numbers of our people are being trained in foreign languages each year, we are far short of our goal in developing the language competences we should have to become the finest professional Service. In fact I think all of us should have a working knowledge of at least one or more of the widely spoken languages such as French, German, Spanish and Russian to increase our understanding of foreign peoples and ideas.

2. We all realize that we cannot stop or slow down important work until our people are fully trained in the languages they need, except when the job cannot be done at all without a command of the language. This means that we must build much of our language competence simultaneously with the performance of our daily tasks. In view of this situation I need the cooperation of all of you including operating officials to solve this problem. Firstly, I am asking operating officials to make sure that each of you is given every opportunity, consistent with essential job requirements, to take the language training you need to better serve the Agency. Secondly, I am asking you to devote as much of your own time as you will, on a voluntary basis, to acquire and to maintain proficiency in one or more languages. I particularly urge those of you who are stationed overseas to take advantage of the unique opportunity you have to study and practice.

3. To provide for the development of language competence throughout the Agency and to recognize the effort you may make in this respect, I have established a Language Development Program to become effective as of this date. Under this program you may be directed to undertake language training as a duty assignment, you are encouraged to study language as a voluntary off-duty activity, or you may combine the two. In any of these cases your language training may be authorized at Government expense, and in addition, those of you who acquire and maintain established levels of proficiency may be granted monetary awards in varying amounts for your effort. I have made it a matter of policy that those of you who qualify, as a result of language training undertaken preponderantly on off-duty time, may be granted awards which are substantially greater than those established for directed language training given during duty hours.

4. The details of this program are spelled out in Regulation [REDACTED] I urge all of you to become familiar with the program and to participate in it to the maximum practicable extent.

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ALLEN W. DULLES
Director of Central Intelligence

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